

HR001120S0040 Rational Integrated Design of Energetics (RIDE)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
As of 3/20/2020

10Q: Are there any guidelines for the budgets?

10A: DARPA may provide an indication of whether an estimated budget is realistic given the proposed technical scope during the abstract stage, but will not provide general guidance. Ultimately, as stated in Section V.A of the BAA, proposals are evaluated in part on the metric that “The proposed costs are realistic for the technical and management approach and accurately reflect the technical goals and objectives of the solicitation.”

9Q: Will the Proposer’s day slides be posted? Could you please provide more information?

9A: No, the Proposers’ Day presentation will not be posted. All relevant information about the program goals, schedule, metrics and milestones covered in the Proposers’ Day presentation are included in the BAA. Specific questions may be submitted to RIDE@darpa.mil.

8Q: Can government laboratories submit proposals as lead institutions, as subcontractors, or neither?

8A: DARPA prefers that U.S. Government laboratories serve as IV&V partners on the program, not as lead institutions or part of a team. However, there may be instances where this is beneficial for the development effort and DARPA will consider these on a case-by-case basis. All proposals should clearly adhere to and address as needed the eligibility information contained in the BAA, Section III.A.

7Q: Will the attendees from the RIDE webinar be published?

7A: No, the attendee list from the RIDE Proposers Day will not be published.

6Q: For TA1, Phase 1 with focus on explosive formulation development, there are 3 main types of explosive formulations (melt pour, cast cure and pressable formulations). Each of those have very different challenges, needs, processes, and desired properties. Is there one that is preferred in this program or can the proposer choose one? Or must the system be capable of making all 3 types? For propellants, there are more than one type as well so must the system in Phase 2 be capable of making gun and rocket propellants or can the proposer choose one?

6A: RIDE is not focused on a particular class of energetic formulations, rather, maximum flexibility is desired. TA1 proposals should determine and describe the types of energetic materials that will be supported by their approach, and discuss ways the scope could be expanded as needed. For example, some classes of materials may require more manual steps than others.

5Q: How many awards are anticipated?

5A: DARPA will not specify the number of anticipated awards.

4Q: I would like to discuss my technical capabilities/concepts with you on topics relevant to RIDE. Can we set up a meeting or phone call?

4A: No, DARPA will not provide feedback on ideas, capabilities or concepts outside of the proposal acquisition process. As noted in the BAA, proposers are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract, about which DARPA will respond to not whether the proposed concept is: (1) applicable to the RIDE BAA and (2) currently of interest.

3Q: Is foreign collaboration allowed in RIDE (i.e. some work done in foreign soil).

3A: Per the BAA, foreign collaboration in RIDE is not restricted in Phases 1 and 2.

2Q: Is there particular emphasis on particular program elements (data collection, automation, synthesis, etc)?

2A: RIDE goals and areas of interest/emphasis are clearly defined in the BAA.

1Q: Are specific aspects of our proposed approach appropriate for the RIDE vision?

1A: DARPA will not provide feedback individual approaches outside of the abstract phase.